

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA**

IN THE MATTER OF THE FILING BY))	ORDER APPROVING
MIDCONTINENT COMMUNICATIONS, INC.))	SWITCHED ACCESS RATES
FOR APPROVAL OF ITS INTRASTATE))	AND GRANTING
SWITCHED ACCESS TARIFF AND FOR AN))	EXTENSION FROM
EXTENSION OF AN EXEMPTION FROM))	DEVELOPING COMPANY
DEVELOPING COMPANY SPECIFIC COST-))	SPECIFIC COST-BASED
BASED SWITCHED ACCESS RATES))	SWITCHED ACCESS RATES
)	TC02-177

On November 1, 2002, the Public Utilities Commission (Commission) received a request from Midcontinent Communications (Midcontinent) for approval of revised switched access rates and an additional extension of its exemption from the requirement to develop intrastate switched access rates based on company specific costs. Midcontinent intends to mirror the switched access rates of Qwest.

On November 20, 2002, the Commission considered Midcontinent's request for approval of revised switched access rates and an additional extension of its exemption from establishing switched access rates based on company specific costs. The Commission has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to SDCL 49-31-18, 49-31-19, ARSD 20:10:27:11 and 20:10:27:12. The Commission voted to grant the request for approval of revised switched access rates and an additional extension of its exemption from the requirement to develop intrastate switched access rates based on company specific costs. The Commission further ordered that Midcontinent, within three years of the date of this Order, file a petition to continue the exemption granted in this proceeding or file cost-based rates. It is therefore

ORDERED, that Midcontinent's request for approval of revised switched access rates to mirror Qwest's intrastate switched access tariff rate is hereby approved; and it is further

ORDERED, that Midcontinent's request for an additional extension of its exemption from establishing company specific cost-based switched access rates is hereby granted; and it is further

ORDERED, that Midcontinent shall, within three years of the date of this Order, file a petition to continue the exemption granted in this proceeding or file cost-based intrastate switched access rates.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 2nd day of December, 2002.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

The undersigned hereby certifies that this document has been served today upon all parties of record in this docket, as listed on the docket service list, by facsimile or by first class mail, in properly addressed envelopes, with charges prepaid thereon.

By: _____

Date: _____

(OFFICIAL SEAL)

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

JAMES A. BURG, Chairman

PAM NELSON, Commissioner

ROBERT K. SAHR, Commissioner